

NATIVE ROOTS

To promote the enjoyment & stewardship of natural areas in West Central Indiana!

Vol 6 Issue #1 JAN-FEB 2010

INPAWS 2010 SMALL GRANT DEADLINE: FEB 1st

(Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society)

INPAWS has a Small Grants Program which gives awards of up to \$1000 to support projects in line with its mission of promoting the appreciation, preservation, conservation, utilization and scientific study of the flora native to Indiana and to educate the public about the values, beauty, diversity and environmental importance of indigenous vegetation.

For details & a copy of the guidelines, go to www.inpaws.org or e-mail Jackie Luzar at smallgrants@inpaws.org

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

West Central Chapter of INPAWS - Indiana Native Plant & Wildflower Society

WC-INPAWS PROGRAM Meetings—fourth Mondays at 7pm at Lilly Nature Center in Celery Bog Nature Area, West Lafayette
Dinner with the speaker is at 6pm at the MCL Cafeteria-West Lafayette
~ open to the public ~

MON, JAN 25 – “The First Morel”

— a mushroom presentation by Don Ruch, Biology Professor at Ball State, who is currently writing a book about wild mushrooms!

MON, FEB 22 – “Exploration of the Natural History of the Kankakee Region”

— Gus Nyberg, Executive Director of NICHES Land Trust, will give a presentation on the natural history of this region with its black oak sand savanna, and wetland communities. He'll cover the current natural areas and the potential for long term prospects.

MON, MAR 22 – “Sedges: So What If they Are Not Orchids!”

— a presentation on the non-Carex sedges by Paul Rothrock, author of *Sedges of Indiana and the Adjacent States*—
The Non-Carex Species. Books will be available for purchase.

PgmChair: Susan Ulrich 765-583-2275 sueandtedulrich@msn.com

FREE WINTER SEED WORKSHOP on SAT, JAN 30 2-4pm at WINTERHAVEN WILDFLOWERS 5734 S 900 West, West Point

Reni Winter will demonstrate native seed preparation methods including cold stratification, scarification, and snow sowing. She will discuss pros & cons of cleaning seeds, indoor germination, and a sure-fire method of sprouting common milkweed seeds!

A variety of native seeds will be available for purchase; *Asclepias syriaca* (common milkweed) seeds will be available free. Reni is a Master Naturalist, president of the West Central Chapter of INPAWS, and owner/grower of Winterhaven Wildflowers.

RSVP Reni at 765-714-4288 or wildflowers@winterhavenfarm.us

Tippecanoe County Master Gardener Workshop

SAT, JAN 23 9am-noon – Free & Open to the Public
“Stop and Smell the Geraniums”

Tippecanoe Extension Office—3150 Sagamore Parkway South, Lafayette
Learn about the cultivation & great variety of scented geraniums from Mark Davidson of Davidson's Greenhouse & Nursery.

Pre-register: 765-474-0793 or For info: www.hort.purdue.edu/mg

OTHER GARDENING EVENTS*

SAT, JAN 23 9am-4pm 7th Annual Gardening Show-Porter Co MG at Porter County Expo Ctr: \$7 admission; speakers from Chicago Botanic Garden, Morton Arboretum, Possibility Place Nursery, more!

TUE, JAN 26 6:30-9pm Gardening with a Native Landscape
The Beef House in Covington - \$20/person/payable at door incl meal
Prof. Janice Coons & Rural Conservationist Megan Benage to speak.
RSVP by JAN 19 www.extension.uiuc.edu/edgar or 765-492-3394

*DETAILS on these pgms & more at www.hort.purdue.edu/mg

SYCAMORE AUDUBON SOCIETY (SAS)

www.sycamoreaudubon.org

SAS PROGRAM Meetings—second Thursdays at 7:15pm at Lilly Nature Center in Celery Bog Nature Area, West Lafayette
Dinner with the speaker is at 6pm at the MCL Cafeteria-West Lafayette
~ open to the public ~

THURS, JAN 14 “Talking Turkey”

—Barry Dunning, Purdue Wildlife Ecologist, will share his birding adventures from this summer when he visited various sites in Turkey with Purdue forestry students.

THURS, FEB 11 “Indiana Bird Photography”

—Marty Jones has taken photos of 276 species of birds in Indiana. He will talk about bird photography (including camera techniques and equipment), interesting stories and memories, and his future photographic goals.

THURS, MAR 11 “Hellbender Stories”

—Rod Williams, Purdue Assistant Professor in Forestry & Natural Resources, will talk about this rarely seen large amphibian found in Indiana.

PGM CHAIR—Diane Packett: dlpacket@pex.net or 765-463-9231

SAS FIELD TRIPS

Meet in gravel parking lot along drive to Lilly Nature Center in Celery Bog Nature Area—between McCormick & Northwestern/WL
SAT FEB 13 Winter Birds Trip

Meet in Celery Bog gravel parking lot at 8:30am.

Half day field trip looking for winter visitors such as Longspurs, Long-eared Owls, Rough-legged Hawks, etc.

SUN MAR 7 Woodcock Courtship Trip

Meet in Celery Bog gravel parking lot at 6:30pm to carpool.

Evening field trip to Purdue Wildlife Area (off SR 26) in the hopes of seeing (or at least hearing) courting American Woodcock at sundown. RETURN around 8:30pm.

SAT MAR 20 First Day of Spring Migratory Trip

Meet in Celery Bog gravel parking lot at 8:30am.

Look over the wetlands at Celery Bog for migrating water birds, and move to other areas if birds are being reported elsewhere.

For field trip info: Barry Dunning 497-3082h, 494-3565w

SAT, JAN 30 Indiana Audubon Society Eagle Field Trip

On last year's trip, 48 bald eagles were seen in half an hour!!

Meeting times/places:

EITHER 6:30am (no later) at east end of Turkey Run Inn parking lot
OR 7:15am at the West Union Covered Bridge in western Parke Co where eagles fly over the bridge going to the Wabash from their upstream roost; when eagle numbers start to drop, group will walk along the river bottoms to see eagles going about their day.

Bulk of trip is over by 1pm; lunch at Greenacres Restaurant--SR 63.

****NEW—FEE of \$15 for non-IAS members who are 18 and older**

TRIP DETAILS/DIRECTIONS: www.indianaaudubon.org or contact

Trip leader Alan Bruner 765-562-2741/cell or abbird@att.net

Want to carpool from Lafayette area?

Contact Susan Ulrich 765-583-2275 sueandtedulrich@msn.com



Hoosier Herpetological Society

meets third Wednesdays – 7:30pm

at Butler University in Gallahue Hall, Rm 105 or 108

For more info: www.hoosierherpsociety.org or contact:

Wendell Zetterberg, Jr. 765-249-2298 or wzetterberg@gmail.com

DELIGHTFUL WINTER PROGRAMS for CHILDREN

Zion Nature Center -- 690 Beech St, Zionsville (317-873-8950)

JAN-FEB program schedule is online at: zionnaturecenter.org

Garfield Park Conservatory – 2505 Conservatory Drive, Indianapolis

SUN, JAN 31st 2-3pm Terrific Terrariums Ages 7-14 FEE: \$3/child

Live up your house this winter—make a terrarium of your own!

Register: 317-327-7580 or www.garfieldgardensconservatory.org

"WEDNESDAYS in the WILD"

Natural History Talks/Workshops/Field Trips

JAN-MAR 2010 1-3pm or As Noted

Jan 13th 1-3pm Winter Animal Tracks & Trails LNC
Join Naturalist Mary Cutler to decode the clues animals leave behind in the natural world. Indoor "how-to" session is followed by outdoor practice of tracking skills, so dress for the weather!

Jan 20th 1-3pm Radio Transmitters in Timber Rattlesnakes LNC
—A Purdue Experience in Bloomington LNC
Steve Thompson (Purdue School of Veterinary Medicine) will give a presentation that includes pictures & video of handling, anesthesia, surgery and tracking of rattlesnakes!

Jan 27th 1-3pm Bringing Back the Bluebird .. "Bring hammer!.. LNC
Tipp Co Park & Rec Dept Naturalist Mary Cutler & Property Manager Brenda Moore team up to discuss this bird's natural history & how to become a "bluebird landlord." Bluebird boxes* may be made for \$15 materials fee (limited scholarships available—contact editor, Joan).

Feb 3rd 1-3pm Maple Sugaring at Home LNC
Don Bickel (Retired Forester) will show how to get started in this fun pursuit on a small scale, followed by outdoor demo of tree-tapping!

Feb 10th 1-3pm Raptors in Rehabilitation and Education LNC
Carol Blacketer (Exec Dir, Wildcat Wildlife Center) shares the unique challenges of rehabilitating raptors. The educational role they play may be displayed by a visit from the center's newest ambassadors!

Feb 17th 1-3pm Sturgeon Spawning in the Wabash LNC
Marisol Sepulveda & Reuben Goforth (Purdue Professors, FNR Fisheries & Aquatic Sciences, involved in the big sturgeon project) will discuss the basic biology of sturgeon and radio tagging efforts.

Feb 24th 7-9pm Where Have All the Box Turtles Gone? LNC
Purdue graduate students Steve Kimble & Andrea Currylow will provide a natural history overview of this once common turtle, discuss reasons for its decline, & tell of their diverse turtle research projects.

Mar 3rd 1-3pm Outdoor MOSS ID* Noon carpool-LNC POTHOLES
Purdue Dendrologist Sally Weeks leads this walk to explore amazing Fall Creek Gorge in Warren County with its spectacular diversity of mosses, & ID easier ones. **RUGGED TERRAIN; could be slippery!**

Mar 10th 1-3pm In Their Own Words: Nature Revealed Through the Observations of Lewis & Clark LNC
Reenactor Rob Durrett, who spent 10 months following the course of this historic trek from St. Louis to the Pacific Ocean, will share unique insights about the natural features, plants, and animals encountered en route, both then and now.

Mar 17th 7-9pm The Habits and Haunts of Local Salamanders LNC
The fascinating lives of seldom-seen salamanders will be brought to life by Rick Howard (Purdue Biology Professor). Indoor program is followed by outdoor search for trapped salamanders & discussion of field research techniques. **Bring a flashlight!**

Mar 24th 7:30-9:30pm Sounds of Spring-Wacky Woodcocks! AMPH
Experience this spring ritual with Naturalist Mary Cutler & members of Sycamore Audubon Soc. **Binoculars, flashlights, dress warmly!**

Mar 31st 1-3pm Planning with POWER LNC
Robert McCormick (Project Leader for Planning with POWER—Protecting Our Water & Environmental Resources) presents an overview of this program, highlighting smart growth initiatives and "Local Decision Maker" tools available through the program.

LOCATIONS of these FREE PGMS—OPEN to the PUBLIC
AMPH(Tipp Co Amphitheater): Meet in parking lot on east side of North River Rd, near Soldiers Home Rd in West Lafayette
LNC (Lilly Nature Center/Celery Bog Nature Area): On north side of Lindberg Rd (betw Northwestern & McCormick) in West Lafayette.
POTHOLES (Fall Creek Gorge): In Warren County.
PARKING is LIMITED, so join carpool from LNC at 12 noon.

Sponsored by: Mary Cutler-TIPP CO Park & Rec Dept, Dan Dunten-WL Parks & Rec, Sycamore Audubon Soc, WC-INPAWS, NICHES
FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact:

Mary Cutler (765-567-2993), Dan Dunten (765-775-5172), or Editor

CALL OUT for Nature Center Volunteers!

If interested in attending upcoming volunteer training sessions for Lilly Nature Center and Wah-ba-shik-a Nature Center, contact Naturalist Mary Cutler by JANUARY 25th – 765-567-2993 or mcut@msn.com

STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

NICHES Land Trust - Helping Ecosystems Survive!
www.nicheslandtrust.org

NEXT BOARD MEETINGS -- 7 pm TUES: Jan 26th, Feb 23rd
in the Wells Center at 638 North St, Lafayette

UPCOMING NICHES WORKDAYS/EVENTS

(Property directions on website unless noted; times are EST.)

SAT JAN 9th 9am-noon Moyer-Gould Woods – Carroll County
WORKDAY to remove fencing & gates from this nature preserve protected by NICHES. Bring pliers, wire cutters, & leather gloves. If you want to haul some metal & make some money, bring a truck!
Directions: 3 miles west of Delphi on SR 18, then north 1.3 mi on US 421. Look for black walnut-lined driveway on west side of road after crossing 400 N.

More info: Fred Bergner 765-427-3475CELL or bergner@ffni.com

SAT JAN 30th 1pm "Wintertime Wander" at Black Rock Barrens
HIKE with Jeff Ganley through the crisp winter woods of this Warren County property. Listen for bird song & look for signs of wildlife!

SAT FEB 13th 10am-1pm at Granville Sand Barrens – Tipp. County
WORKDAY-brush pile burning, led by Brad Weigel, Stewardship Mgr

SAT FEB 27th 10am-1pm at Wright Rock Creek – Warren County
WORKDAY-garlic mustard removal, led by Jeff Ganley.

INFO? Gus Nyberg 765-423-1605 or gnyberg@nicheslandtrust.org

NICHES 15th Anniversary—Celebrating Art & Nature

JURIED ART SHOW & EXHIBITION

Artwork must be submitted by FEB 1, 2010

for display at TAF-Wells Center APR & MAY

Separate awards (\$100-\$750) will be given for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place for:

PHOTOGRAPHS (from a NICHES property)

MIXED MEDIA (inspired by our midwestern natural landscape)

NOTE: no more than three submissions per artist.

Sponsored by NICHES, TAF, & Lafayette Savings Bank

DETAILS at www.nicheslandtrust.org

or contact gnyberg@nicheslandtrust.org

OHIO INVASIVE PLANT RESEARCH CONFERENCE

"Connecting Research and Land Management"

THUR, FEB 18th 8:45am – 4:30pm

at Franklin Park Conservatory – Columbus, Ohio

Register before JAN 15th for early bird discount at: www.oipc.info

The Science, Practice & Art of

RESTORING NATIVE ECOSYSTEMS—2010 Conference

FRI & SAT, JAN 22 & 23

Kellogg Center in East Lansing, Michigan

Informative talks & workshops focusing on invasive plants and the threats they pose to native ecosystems!

REGISTRATION DETAILS at: www.stewardshipnetwork.org

Sponsors: Stewardship Network & Midwest Invasive Plant Network

Planet Indy: The Ascent of the Electric Car

THUR, FEB 11 at Indianapolis Museum of Art—4000 Michigan Rd

5:30pm Film: "Who Killed the Electric Car?"

7:30pm Talk by filmmaker Chris Paine on relationship between good design & sustainability, & new ways of thinking about mobility!

CONSERVATION DAY 2009**

TUE, JAN 26th -- 8:30am to 2:30pm

at Indiana Statehouse & Indiana Government Center South
200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis

Attend morning information session, then meet fellow conservationists, talk with legislators & voice your concerns about the future of our natural resources.

The greater the attendance, the greater the impact!

****FREE, but registration is required by JAN 16th online at:**

www.nature.org/indiana (click on events)

Sponsored by the Indiana Conservation Alliance (INCA)—a statewide network of nonprofit organizations providing a unified voice for the protection, stewardship, and sustainable use of natural resources to enhance our quality of life.

MORE INFO—Angela Hughes: ahughes@tnc.org or 317-951-8818

Why this newsletter?

If you're like me, you'd like to have all your nature news in one place—so you don't miss out on some interesting natural history programs or stewardship opportunities. That's my intent here.

Submissions for MAR-APR issue need to reach me by FEB 26th.

Please send your info to mohrsamuels@comcast.net

or call (765) 567-7023. **Joan Mohr Samuels, Editor**